

**Amendments to the Specification** (where added material is shown in underlined type, deleted material is shown in ~~strikeout type~~.)

Please replace the Abstract beginning on page 23 with the following amended Abstract:

**Abstract**

~~The invention concerns converters~~ Converters and a corresponding method for converting serial data to parallel format and vice versa, particularly for use in switches for telecommunications applications. The converters comprise a storage element associated with each serial channel and comprising two arrays of storage elements. At any one time, the storage elements are accessed sequentially while those of the other array are accessed in parallel. A data bus, divided into portions by buffers, connects the serial channel to all storage cells in an associated storage element. For serial to parallel conversion, the buffers latch data from one bus portion to the next in accordance with a write cycle during which one storage element is written. Writing commences from the bus portion furthest from the incoming serial channel and storage elements on either side of a buffer are written simultaneously. The resulting delay between writing arrays words allows checking of the data, such as ~~sychronisation~~ synchronization.

~~Fig. 2~~